

A<sup>3</sup>  
5. (Amended) An isolated polynucleotide which is at least 70% identical to a polynucleotide comprising the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein said polynucleotide encodes a protein having LuxR transcriptional activation activity.

6. (Amended) An isolated polynucleotide according to Claim 5 which is at least 80% to a polynucleotide comprising the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

7. (Amended) An isolated polynucleotide according to Claim 5 which is at least 90% to a polynucleotide comprising the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

A<sup>4</sup>  
10. (Amended) An isolated polynucleotide which consists of at least 15 consecutive nucleotides of the polynucleotide of Claim 3.

A<sup>5</sup>  
16. (Amended) The host cell of Claim 14, which is a Coryneform bacterium.

17. (Amended) The host cell of Claim 15, which is a Coryneform bacterium.

18. (Amended) The host cell of Claim 14, wherein said host cell is selected from the group consisting of *Corynebacterium glutamicum*, *Corynebacterium acetoglutamicum*, *Corynebacterium acetoacidophilum*, *Corynebacterium melassecola*, *Corynebacterium thermoaminogenes*, *Brevibacterium flavum*, *Brevibacterium lactofermentum*, and *Brevibacterium divaricatum*.

19. (Amended) The host cell of Claim 15, wherein said host cell is selected from the group consisting of *Corynebacterium glutamicum*, *Corynebacterium acetoglutamicum*,